

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 ARAE-00 L-03 SSO-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /025 W

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O 141310Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7067

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CASC, AR

SUBJECT: JEHOVAH WITNESSES

REF: STATE 224228

1. CLOSURE OF WITNESSES OFFICES NOW TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH NEW DECREE NUMBER 1867 DATED AUGUST 31, 1976. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT: "AS THE RELIGIOUS GROUP "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" OR "THE WATCH TOWER AND BIBLE TRACT SOCIETY", IN SPITE OF BEING REFUSED INSCRIPTION IN THE REGISTRY OF NON-CATHOLIC AND DISSIDENT WORSHIP OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WORSHIP, CONTINUES ITS PROSELYTIZING AND SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY, AND CONSIDERING: THAT THE GROUP IN QUESTION MAINTAINS PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO THE NATION AND BASIC INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE AND FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS OF ITS LEGISLATION; THAT THE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP ALLOWED BY THE ARTICLES 14 AND 20 OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION IS OF COURSE LIMITED IN THE SENSE THAT RELIGIOUS IDEAS MUST NOT LEAD TO A VIOLATION OF LAWS OR ATTEMPT AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER, THE NATIONAL SECURITY, MORAL AND GOOD CUSTOMS; THAT THE CHURCHGOERS OF THE MENTIONED SECT, IN OPEN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 21 OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES 4 AND 11 OF THE ACT 17531, REFUSE TO CARRY OUT THE OBLIGATIONS WHICH THESE LEGAL TEXTS IMPLY. FOR THAT

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REASON, AND USING THE FACULTIES CONFERRED BY

ARTICLE 4 OF THE STATUTE FOR THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL  
REORGANIZATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION RESOLVES:

ARTICLE 1: THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION  
"JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES" OR "THE WATCH TOWER AND BIBLE  
TRACT ASSOCIATION" AND THAT OF THE GROUPS, ENTITIES OR  
ASSOCIATION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATED TO SUCH  
ASSOCIATION ARE PROHIBITED IN ALL OF THE TERRITORY OF  
THE NATION.

ARTICLE 2: ALSO PROHIBITED ARE: A) THE NEWSPAPERS,  
MAGAZINES AND ALL PUBLICATION WHICH OSTENSIBLY OR HIDDENLY  
CONTRIBUTES TO BROADCAST THE SAID DOCTRINE, B) ACTS OF  
PROSELYTIZING AND ACTS OF INDOCTRINATION.

ARTICLE 3: ALL OF THE HEADQUARTERS IN WHICH MEETINGS  
OF THE ABOVEMENTIONED ASSOCIATION ARE HELD, AS WELL  
AS THE PLACES IN WHICH PRINTING, DISTRIBUTION OR  
SALE OF MATERIAL MENTIONED IN ARTICLE 2, SHALL BE SHUT  
DOWN.

ARTICLE 4: INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLY WITH THIS DECREE  
WILL BE GIVEN THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

ARTICLE 5: SERVE NOTICE, ENTER, GIVE TO THE NATIONAL  
OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRY AND FILE."

DECREE NO. 1867

SIGNED: JORGE VIDELA

2. EFFECT OF DECREE HAS BEEN TO CLOSE WITNESSES'  
EVERY OFFICE AND PLACE OF WORSHIP IN ARGENTINA AND  
TO DENY WITNESSES' ACCESS TO PRINTING PRESSES AND  
SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS. ALL RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES HAVE  
BEEN CURTAILED.

3. WITNESSES HAVE RETAINED LOCAL ATTORNEY DR.  
MARCELO FABRIS, TEL.: 45-2700 BUENOS AIRES AND ARE  
TAKING ACTION IN FEDERAL COURTS TO HAVE DECREE  
DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL. WITNESSES BELIEVE THAT  
CASE WILL EVENTUALLY GO TO SUPREME COURT FOR RESOLUTION.

4. COPY DECREE 1867 FORWARDED DEPT. THIS DATE.  
WITNESSES ARE ALSO PROVIDING EMBASSY WITH COPY OF  
LEGAL ARGUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO COURTS IN THEIR  
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BEHALF. ARGUMENTS WITH EMBASSY COMMENT WILL BE  
TRANSMITTED TO DEPT. AS SOON AS RECEIVED.  
HILL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BUENOS05950  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760346-0751  
**From:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760964/aaaaccni.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 224228  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2004  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JEHOVAH WITNESSES  
**TAGS:** SHUM, CASC, AR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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